

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Original) A method of reproducing audio and/or video information transmitted in parallel in a plurality of channels, the information in each channel being divided into primary and secondary information, wherein the user can select one of the channels and the primary information of the selected channel is reproduced, the method including an "information mode", which is initiated each time the user has changed the selected channel and which is terminated a given period of time after initiation, the secondary information being reproduced parallel to or instead of the primary information during the information mode.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, characterized in that the secondary information is transmitted parallel to the primary information and preferably expanded in time, is stored in a memory, and is reproduced from this memory during the information mode.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, characterized in that the transmission of the primary and secondary information originates from a recording device like a VCR, or from the broadcasting of a radio transmitter.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, characterized in that the secondary information comprises commercials.

14. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein the audio and/or video information is transmitted according to a method of transmitting one of: audio and video information, wherein the information is divided into primary, secondary and tertiary programs, the primary and secondary programs are transmitted in an alternating sequence ($P_1, C_1, P_2, C_2, \dots$), and the tertiary programs (C_1^*, \dots) are transmitted parallel to these programs and that the secondary information consists of one of: secondary and tertiary programs.

15. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1 10, characterized in that the audio and/or video information is digitally coded.

16. (Currently amended) A device for reproducing audio and/or video information divided into primary, secondary and tertiary programs, the device comprising:

[[A]] a receiver for audio and/or video information divided into primary, secondary, and tertiary programs, characterized in that it can receive and discriminate primary and secondary programs (P_1, \dots, C_1, \dots) transmitted in an alternating sequence and tertiary

programs (~~C1*,...~~) transmitted parallel to the primary and secondary programs, wherein the tertiary programs are transmitted expanded in time; and

a buffer for the intermediate storage of audio and/or video information.

17. (Currently amended) ~~A device for reproducing audio and/or video information divided into primary, secondary, and tertiary programs, which device includes~~ The device according to claim 16, further comprising:

(A) ~~— a receiver (1) according to claim 16,~~

~~— (B) — a buffer (5) for the intermediate storage of audio and/or video information;~~

~~— (C) — a reproducing unit (3) for the reproduction of audio and/or video information[.]; and~~

(D) a control unit adapted to allow switching between the following modes:

(a) a "normal mode", in which the primary and secondary programs (~~P1, C1,~~
P2) are reproduced as transmitted;

(b) a "pause mode", which can be activated by a user, in which mode the reproduction of the primary program (P2') is interrupted and tertiary programs (~~C1*, C2*~~) are reproduced instead, and in which any further received primary programs (P2", P3) are applied to and stored in a buffer (5); and

(c) a "resume mode", which can be activated by a user during a "pause mode", in which resume mode the application and storage of received primary programs (P3) to and in the buffer is continued and the reproduction of primary programs (P2", P3) is resumed from the instant at which it was interrupted, the primary programs being retrieved from the buffer while any interposed secondary programs (~~C2, C3~~) are left out, the "resume mode" being finished with a return to "normal mode" if the primary program currently reproduced from the buffer ends during the transmission of the secondary program that follows this primary program in the transmission sequence.

18. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 17, characterized in that it includes a playback unit which reproduces recorded audio and/or video information divided into primary, secondary, and tertiary programs, the primary and secondary programs (P_1, \dots, C_1, \dots) being transmitted to the receiver in an alternating sequence and the tertiary programs (C_1^*, \dots) being transmitted to the receiver parallel to the primary and secondary programs.

19. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 17, wherein it is adapted to carry out a method according to a method of reproducing one of: audio and video information transmitted by means of a method of transmitting one of: audio and video information, wherein the information is divided into primary, secondary and tertiary programs, the primary and secondary programs are transmitted in an alternating sequence ($P_1, C_1, P_2, C_2, \dots$), and the tertiary programs (C_1^*, \dots) are transmitted parallel to these programs and received by means of a method of receiving one of: audio and video information, wherein the information is transmitted by means of a method according to claim 1, wherein the information is received, and wherein the received information is differentiated into primary, secondary and tertiary programs, which reproducing method switches between the following modes:

- (a) a "normal mode", in which the primary and secondary programs (P_1, C_1, P_2) are reproduced as transmitted;
- (b) a "pause mode" that can be activated by a user, in which mode the reproduction of the primary program (P_2) is interrupted and tertiary programs (C_1^*, C_2^*) are reproduced instead, and in which any further received primary programs (P_2^*, P_3) are applied to and stored in a buffer (5); and
- (c) a "resume mode" that can be activated by a user during a "pause mode", in which "resume mode" the application and storage of received primary programs (P_3) to and in the buffer is continued and the reproduction of primary programs (P_2^*, P_3) is resumed from the instant at which it was interrupted, the primary programs being retrieved from buffer while any interposed secondary programs (C_2, C_3) are left out, the "resume mode" being finished with a return to the "normal mode" if the primary program currently reproduced from buffer ends

during the transmission of the secondary program that follows this primary program in the transmission sequence.

20. (Original) A device for the reproduction of audio and/or video information transmitted in parallel in a plurality of channels, the information in each channel being divided into primary and secondary information, the device including

(A) a receiver that can receive and discriminate primary and secondary information, the secondary information being preferably transmitted parallel to the primary information,

(B) optionally, a buffer for the intermediate storage of audio and/or video information,

(C) optionally, a decoder that can determine if the secondary information is suited for reproduction after a change of channel,

(D) a reproducing unit for the reproduction of the audio and/or video information,

(E) a control unit that is adapted to allow a user to select one of the plurality of channels and to apply the primary information of the selected channel from the receiver to the reproducing unit,

the control unit further initiating an information mode each time the selected channel is changed and terminating this information mode a given period of time after initiation, the secondary information being applied to the reproducing unit parallel to or instead of the primary information in the information mode.

21. (Original) A device according to claim 20, characterized in that it includes a playback unit that transmits recorded audio and/or video information in a plurality of selectable channels, the information in each channel being divided into primary and secondary information.

22. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 20 wherein said device is adapted to

carry out a method of reproducing audio and/or video information transmitted in parallel in a plurality of channels, the information in each channel being divided into primary and secondary information, wherein the user can select one of the channels and the primary information of the selected channel is reproduced, the method including the information mode.

23. (Currently amended) A method for transmitting at least one of audio and video information, comprising:

dividing the information into primary, secondary and tertiary programs;
transmitting the primary and secondary programs in an alternating sequence; and
transmitting the tertiary program parallel to the primary and secondary programs, wherein the tertiary programs are transmitted expanded in time;

receiving the transmitted programs;

storing at least some of the received programs in a buffer; and

differentiating the received data into the primary, secondary and tertiary programs.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24 23, further comprising:

reproducing the primary, secondary and tertiary programs;

switching between a normal mode, a pause mode and a resume mode,

wherein, when in the normal mode, the primary and secondary programs are reproduced as transmitted, and wherein, when in the pause mode, reproduction of the primary program is interrupted, tertiary programs are reproduced instead, and any further received primary programs are stored in a buffer, and

wherein, when in the resume mode, storage of received primary programs in the buffer is continued, reproduction of primary programs is resumed from the instant at which it was interrupted, primary programs being retrieved from the buffer while any interposed secondary programs are omitted from reproduction, and

wherein the resume mode finishes with a return to the normal mode if the primary program currently reproduced from the buffer ends during the transmission of the secondary program that follows the primary program currently reproduced from the buffer in the transmission sequence.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the tertiary programs are stored in a memory and reproduced from the memory during the pause mode.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the secondary programs are not stored in the buffer.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising:
designating parts of at least one of the buffer and the memory as free as soon as the programs stored therein have been reproduced.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the transition from the pause mode to the resume mode is delayed until the currently reproduced tertiary program ends.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the transmitting steps are performed by one of a recording device and a radio transmitter.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~24~~ 23, wherein the secondary and tertiary programs comprise commercials.